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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Fifty-first session
Vienna, 10-21 February 2014

Draft report of the Working Group of the Whole

1. In accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 68/75, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its fifty-first session, reconvened its Working Group of the Whole. From 12 to [...] February 2014, the Working Group held [...] meetings, under the chairmanship of V. K. Dadhwal (India). The Working Group considered the item on space technology for socioeconomic development in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development agenda, and the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-second session of the Subcommittee, to be held in 2015. At its [4th] meeting, on [...] February, the Working Group adopted the present report.

I. Space technology for socioeconomic development in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development agenda

2. For its consideration of the item on space technology for socioeconomic development in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development agenda, the Working Group had before it the documents referred to under item 6 of the agenda of the Subcommittee (see para. [...] in the main body of the report above).

3. The Working Group welcomed the proposal made by Japan (A/AC.105/2014/CRP.22) and agreed with its overall objective. The Working Group agreed on the following requirements:

(a) Considering that the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals still had to finalize its proposal for concrete sustainable development goals to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, in 2014, and that the post-2015 development agenda process was yet to become

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concrete and implementable, the Working Group of the Whole would, at the fifty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in 2015, review the multi-year workplan contained in that conference room paper in order to define a detailed method of work for the period 2015-2019 on the basis of what was expected to be the outcome of those two global processes under the global development agenda;

(b) The goal of that multi-year workplan would be to identify how the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was contributing to the global development agenda, including interaction with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, regional and interregional mechanisms for cooperation in space activities and other institutional frameworks for international space cooperation. The contribution of the Committee to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), contained in document A/AC.105/993, would be the basis for such determination;

(c) The method of work under the multi-year workplan would, against that background, be revisited by the Working Group of the Whole at the fifty-second session of the Subcommittee. The Secretariat was requested to present for the Subcommittee's fifty-second session, in consultation with the delegation of Japan, a conference room paper outlining a proposed method of work under the multi-year workplan for consideration by the Working Group of the Whole, taking into account the status of the two parallel global processes in New York and the role of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), in view of the forthcoming sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda process;

(d) Consultations would be held at the fifty-seventh session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in June 2014, in conjunction with the agenda item "Space and sustainable development".

4. The Working Group encouraged member States of the Committee to liaise nationally with their respective authorities and departments responsible for the intergovernmental processes related to the Conference and the post-2015 development agenda in order to promote the recognition in those processes of the relevance of space science and technology applications and the use of space-derived geospatial data.

5. The Working Group requested the Office for Outer Space Affairs to continue taking an active part in the United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda and other inter-agency mechanisms for the processes related to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development agenda, within its capacities, in order to promote the inclusion of space-related references and elements in the documentation generated by the United Nations Secretariat under those processes.

6. On the basis of a proposal by the delegation of Canada, the Working Group agreed on the establishment of a focused expert group on space and global health to consider issues related to the use of space technology for public health, and further agreed that the group should present, under the leadership of Canada, its method and programme of work, including a concrete timeline, to the Working Group of the Whole for its consideration at the next session of the Subcommittee, in 2015. The

Working Group noted that no Secretariat services would be required for the focus expert group.

II. Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

7. The Working Group of the Whole noted that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/75, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee would submit to the Committee its proposal for the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-second session of the Subcommittee, to be held in 2015.

8. The Working Group of the Whole considered the list of substantive items contained in the provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/C.1/L.332) and recommended that the same substantive items should be considered at the fifty-second session of the Subcommittee.

9. The Working Group of the Whole noted that, in accordance with the agreement reached by the Subcommittee at its forty-fourth session, in 2007 (A/AC.105/890, annex I, para. 24), the Committee on Space Research would organize a symposium at the fifty-second session of the Subcommittee. The Working Group of the Whole agreed that the topic of the 2015 symposium, chosen from a list of topics proposed by the Committee on Space Research, should be "Measuring the universe: looking back in time with modern astronomy".

10. The Working Group of the Whole agreed that an expert group with a rapporteur be set up to inform the Subcommittee on developments under the agenda item on space weather, drawing on the best practices of the work of expert group C on space weather of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities. The Working Group of the Whole noted that under the leadership of Canada, the programme of work of the newly established expert group would be presented to the Subcommittee at its next session, in 2015. The Working Group of the Whole further noted that no Secretariat services would be required for the expert group.